



pool se?

sive session is more benevolent workout. For the average minutes of sex s' foreplay uses up about

you can add the dressing each other. a professor from Italy, with two hands uses up time undoing it with just a whopping 18 calories.



I llers ex a ?

nd Powell people use they es following whereas that the tension helps them. ts believe of testos- body can eous to n power lightlifting it whether chevied by stinece bate." ope that's Beckham, informed t whether with Posh re he sits for Real

Where is the oddest place anyone has ever had sex?

GONE With The Wind star Clark Gable and Hollywood siren Carole Lombard did it in a shelter for concealing duck hunters, Coronation Street's Lynn Perrie did it on top of Table

Mountain in Cape Town. However, the award for the most inventive tryst must go to the late actor Brian Glover, who consummated his passion "in the British Museum".

What is the most exotic love offering ever made?

IN third place is Emperor Shah Jahan who built the Taj Mahal in memory of his favourite wife.

In second is Cleopatra who once dropped two extremely valuable pearls into a glass of wine and

drank a toast to Mark Antony.

But the number one has to be Herod, who gave Salome the head of John the Baptist, just because she asked for it.

How romantic was that?

Can you have an orgasm without being touched?

SOME people can achieve orgasm without being touched at all, just from having the right kind of emotional, visual or psychological stimulation.

However, this privilege is granted to a very few. Only three or four men out of the 5,000 in the book's sample had experienced orgasm by fantasy alone.

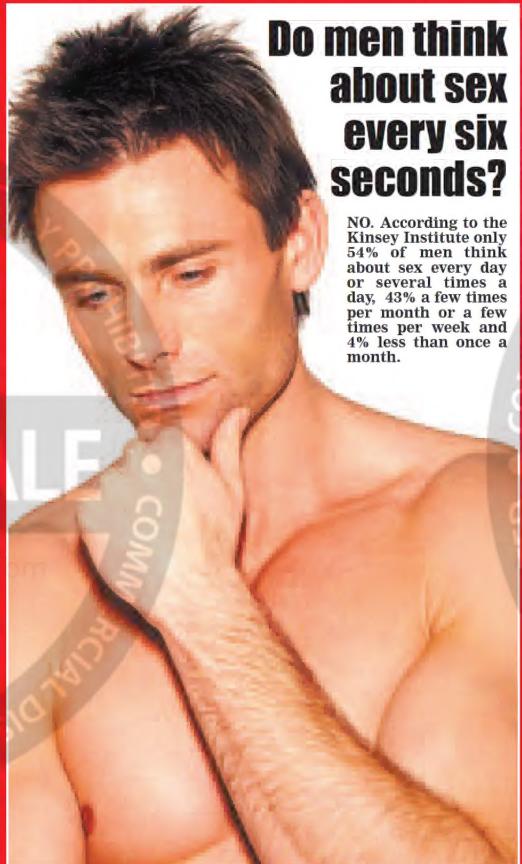
Does the Vatican really have the world's greatest collection of porn?

IT turns out that it came from a throwaway remark by the renowned sexologist Alfred Kinsey who apparently told his

students that he had the greatest collection of pornography, second only to the Vatican's. It was a joke.

Do men think about sex every six seconds?

NO. According to the Kinsey Institute only 54% of men think about sex every day or several times a day, 43% a few times per month or a few times per week and 4% less than once a month.



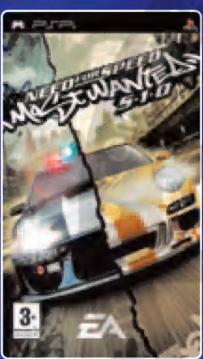
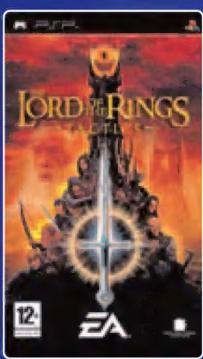
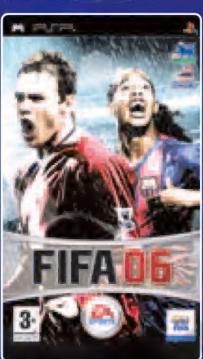
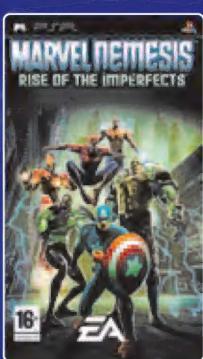
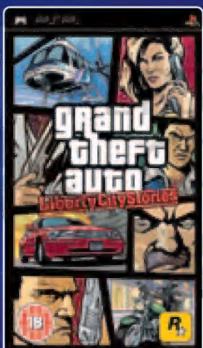
Are chastity belts still worn?

THERE'S a Sheffield company named Tollyboy which runs a thriving business on the internet selling female and male chastity belts. The company was founded by Hal Higgin-

bottom, an engineer at Sheffield University who was challenged by a lecturer to make a modern day chastity belt. Apparently 70% of orders are from blokes.

**2 PSP GAMES
FOR £30***

OR AS PRICED



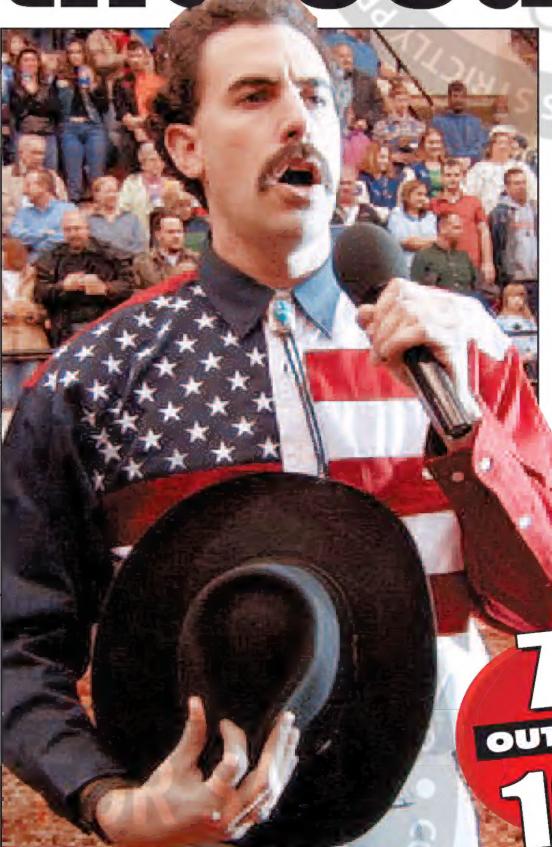
SEE IN-STORE FOR DETAILS

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* Offer applies to stickered stock only. For limited period, while stocks last. Individual titles are priced at \$19.99, offer applies to UK stores only. Prices may vary online.

ALAN FRANK'S back ROW **SACHA'S NOT**

Borat lasts the coarse



7 OUT OF 10

BAD TASTE: Borat wows the Yanks during his US adventures

IT'S NO GOOD SULKIN, GREGG

SIXTY SIX (12A)

SOME people just have terrible luck.

Like about-to-turn-13 Jewish lad Gregg Sulkin, whose plans for a bar mitzvah to remember steadily collapse when he finds his big day clashes with the 1966 World Cup Final.

You don't need to be Jewish or a footie fan either to enjoy this charming, sharply-characterised, "true-ish" comedy to the max. First-time actor Sulkin and parents Eddie Marsan and Helena Bonham Carter couldn't be better.

VERDICT: 5/10

MISCHIEF NIGHT (15)

UNTIL I saw this brisht comedy, I'd no idea Mischief Night - when youngsters in Yorkshire act like minor vandals - actually existed.

Director Penny Woolcock stirs her stew of crime, racial friction and comedy serviceably enough.

VERDICT: 5/10

WAIST DEEP (15)

CROOK Tyree Gibson turns nasty to rescue his kidnapped kid from a vicious LA crime king in a slick thriller. Only the fast-paced action scenes are really worth watching.

VERDICT: 4/10

WIN Mission Impossible 3 DVDs: SEE PAGE 46

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10 MONTHS

ITV2

9.25 Coronation Street (AD) (R) (W) (S) 1249067
9.50 Emmerdale The villagers launch a petition. (W) (S) 12173135
10.20 The Oprah Winfrey Show Topical discussions. (R) (S) 358832
11.10 Judge Judy (R) (S) 3827932
12.30 Coronation Street David returns to school. (R) (W) (S) 70970
1.00 Emmerdale Hari and Louise arrange a date. (AD) (R) (S) 358833
1.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show Talk show. (R) (W) (S) 5037116
2.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show Talk show. (R) (W) (S) 1436609
3.40 Ricki Lake (R) 709864
4.30 Sally Jessy Raphael US chat show. (R) 8758845
5.15 Judge Judy (R) 7380067
6.30 The New Adventures Of Superman (R) 80241
7.30 The Xtra Factor: The Aftermath (R) (W) 38048
8.30 The Xtra Factor: Xcess All Areas With Ben Shephard. 54609
9.30 FILM: Runaway Bride 1999 (PG) Sparks fly when a disreputable journalist meets a woman with a deep-seated fear of commitment. Comedy, with Julia Roberts and Richard Gere. (W) (S) 6431235
11.40 Coronation Street Tracy finds the locks at No 6 have been changed and all her belongings are in bags outside the Barlows'. The Platts unburden themselves at a counselling session, with Sarah blaming David for all their woes. (AD) (R) (W) (S) 114338

12.10 Test Drive My Girlfriend (R) 7550433 **12.40 Hell's Kitchen Raw** 5570487 **1.40 Playdate** (W) 8357635 **4.00 Playalong** 43549

ITV3

5.10 ITV3 Nightscreen 2357883
6.00 Survival (R) 6341845
6.55 Film File 37124512
7.05 Peak Practice Drama, with Saskia Wickham. (R) (S) 2934845
8.05 Ironside (R) 4511883
9.05 The Rockford Files 7179067
10.10 Upstairs, Downstairs James plays the stock market. (R) 7867086
11.15 Pie In The Sky (R) 4770680
12.20 Rumpole Of The Bailey (R) 2563135
1.25 Faith In The Future 85643834
1.55 Faith In The Future Domestic comedy. (R) 4135390
2.30 Ironside (R) 8458113
3.30 Goodnight Sweetheart Starring Nicholas Lyndhurst. 9052222
4.05 The Rockford Files 8124680
5.10 Peak Practice (S) 2851777
6.15 Goodnight Sweetheart Comedy. (R) 5710845
6.55 Rumpole Of The Bailey Courtroom drama. (R) 8323512
8.05 The Two Ronnies Vintage comedy. (R) 4730680
9.00 FILM: Accidental Hero 1992 (15) Starring Dustin Hoffman. 34344086
11.10 Tales Of The Unexpected (R) 5242864
11.45 Tales Of The Unexpected A father buys his son a turtle. 9346661
12.20 The Grimleys (R) (W) 3858758
12.50 The Grimleys (R) (W) 7675742
1.20 Monsignor Renard (R) 6406549
2.45 Peak Practice (R) (S) 1765907
3.40-5.40 Teleshopping 3522723

ITV4

6.00 Married - With Children Ed O'Neill stars. (R) 67175951
6.30 Married - With Children Comedy classic. (R) 67166203
7.00 Now And Again (R) 58826999
8.00 Martial Law (R) 58802319
9.00 FILM: Diamonds Are Forever 1971 (PG) Arch-criminal Blotfeld plans global domination by cornering the world diamond market. Glittering James Bond adventure, starring Sean Connery, Jill St John and Charles Gray. (W) 97361116
11.25 Homicide: Life On The Street Lewis and Bayliss are called to investigate a homicide at a boarding school. (R) 91188154
12.25 Dinner For Five 89030636
1.00 LAPD: Life On The Beat (R) 66425013 **1.30 LAPD: Life On The Beat** (R) 32282433 **2.00 The Inside** (R) (W) 91154365 **2.50 The Inside** (R) (W) 56905520 **3.40 Teleshopping** 77939810 **5.40 ITV4 Nightscreen** 93403471



EASTENDERS: BBC1, 8pm

ALAN FRANK'S TELLY MOVIES**STAR RATINGS**

****Don't miss it ***Good **Average
 *Time filler *Garbage!

■ THE BIG GAME (TVM, 1995) *** Five 1.35-3.40pm. Drama. A factory worker who assumes another identity as a way of extending his gambling habit decides to pose as a stockbroker. But he ends up being forced to lie to his family to try and cover up his losses. Co-starring Gary Webster, Chris Jury and Emma Wray.

■ McBRIDE: TUNE IN FOR MURDER (TVM, 2005) *** C4 2.00-3.30pm. Thriller. Crusading lawyer John Larocque decides to investigate after he becomes convinced that his client is innocent of the murder of the obnoxious disc jockey he worked with. Also starring Marita DuBois, Matt Lutz and Christie Lynn Smith.

■ THE DEADLY LOOK OF LOVE (TVM, 2000) *** Five 3.40-5.30pm. Psychological thriller. An apparently innocent 23-year-old woman is ruled by dangerous sexual fantasies which spiral out of control after her boyfriend decides to end their relationship. Starring Jordan Ladd and Vincent Spano.

■ MOST WANTED (1997) *** Five 10.00-11.30pm. Action thriller. Condemned Army officer Keenen Ivory Wayans agrees to join a less-than-legitimate assassination squad to escape a death sentence but when he tries to quit he ends up being framed for murder. Also starring Jon Voight and Jillian Hennessy.

■ ROADKILL (2001) **** BBC1 11.35pm-1.10am. Shockie, Steve Zahn and Paul Walker make fun of a trucker over their CB radio but soon come to regret their foolishness when it turns out their victim is a relentless psychotic killer who then comes after them with bloody murder in mind. Also starring Leelee Sobieski.

■ THE LAWNMOWER MAN (1992) *** BBC1 1.10-2.55am. Science-fiction shocker. Scientist Pierce Brosnan conducts experiments designed to induce mental stimulation on mentally disabled gardener Jeff Fahey but after a promising start the experiment goes seriously awry. Also starring Jenny Wright.

REGIONAL VARIATIONS

BBC1 Variations WALES: **6.30-7.00** Local News 13
BBC2 Variations WALES: **7.00** Scrum V Live 38932
9.00 Gardeners' World 1338 **9.30-10.30** Simon Schama's Power Of Art 72319

ITV1 Variations ITV1 ANGLIA: **3.28-3.30** Anglia Weather 3678357 **6.00-6.30** Local News 19 ITV1 CENTRAL: **3.28-3.30** Local Weather 3678357 **6.00-6.30** Local News 19 ITV1 MERIDIAN: **3.28-3.30** Meridian Weather 3678357 **6.00-6.30** Local News 19 ITV1 CHANNEL: **3.28-3.30** Fun, Fun, Fun with Oscar Puffin and Harry the Hedgehog. 3672357 **6.00-6.30** Local News Weather 19 **6.59-7.00** Local News 269203 ITV1 WEST: **3.28-3.30** ITV West Weather 3678357 **6.00-6.30** Local News 19 ITV1 WALES: **3.28-3.30** ITV Wales Weather 3678357 **6.00-6.30** Local News 19 ITV1 WESTCOUNTRY: **3.28-3.30** Westcountry Weather 3678357 **6.00-6.30** Local News 19

S4C As Channel 4 except: **7.00** Planed Plant Bach 6.30-7.00 **8.00** Planed Plant 6.30-7.00 **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond 72116116 **9.30** Will & Grace 93576939 **10.00** Film: The Thief Of Bagdad 99599512 **12.30** Planed Plant Bach 67678154 **1.15** Rory Peck Awards 2006 84793947 **1.20** It's Me Or The Dog 90000951 **1.55** Cooking It 49848319 **2.25** Deal Or No Deal 51037715 **3.10** Countdown 76943338 **4.00-5.00** Planed Plant 74341048 **6.30** Uned 5 78222425 **7.30** Newyddion 13184680 **8.00** Pobol Y Cym 52000000 **8.30** Hywel Lloyd Nossol Lawyer 9.00 Jonathan 2000 **10.00** One Of Us 25249000 **10.30** One Of Us 10 Calls 65922319 **10.45** Unanimous 63990945 **11.45** Bel In The USA 49944593 **12.20** Jimmy Carr: Stand Up 50066520 **1.20** Man To Man With Dean Learner 55713777 **1.45** The 100 Greatest Albums 20607182 **5.25** Diwedi

MIKE WARD
WHAT'S HOT TO WATCH TODAY

■ AS NO doubt you'll be deeply amused to hear, EASTENDERS' Ian "The Weasel" Beale gets a drink chucked in his smug face in the Vic tonight (8pm). Even funnier, it's at his own engagement do. And, most entertaining of all, the person actually throwing it is the poor cow he's supposed to be marrying. Jane has already told him, of course, that the wedding is off, albeit not entirely convincingly, after she's grown tired of the Weasel's refusal to take any of her own wishes into account, nuptially-wise. But, sensitive as ever, he's ploughed ahead with this big showy-offy engagement bash.

When Jane walks in, then, she's not exactly in the most merry of moods. And to really rub salt into the wound, who should she then bump into but horrible old Victor from the Walford Community Charity Thingummy?

That's when the Weasel gets his well-earned soaking – following which, Jane stomps out.

Even then, the bloke's not prepared to give up.

Instead, he chases her out into the square and starts banging on about how much he loves her and how this stupid party was just his way of demonstrating this to the rest of Walford.

The soppy wassock.

■ ELSEWHERE in Soapland, there's a shock for grumpy old Edna in tonight's EMMERDALE (ITV1, 7pm) when she attends Eve's blessing – and bumps into Madge from Neighbours. For the purposes of Emmerdale, Madge is now called Lily, however, and happens to be Edna's sister. They don't get on, as is soon underlined – and we're about to learn why.

■ OVER in CORONATION STREET (ITV1, 7.30pm), Frankie is clearly deadly serious about moving to Spain to escape Jamie's attentions – so Danny agrees to join her. And Tracy finally admits that Charlie is a rodent.

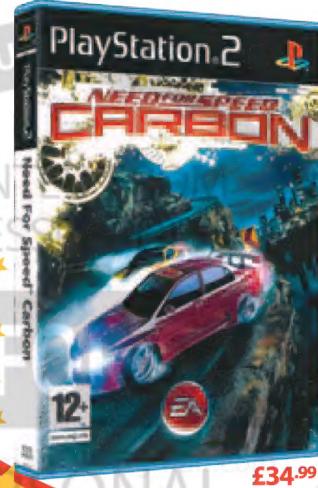
mike@mikeward.tv

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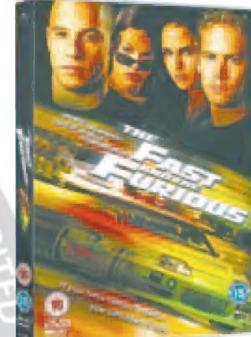
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MATT BAYLIS



...ON LAST
NIGHT'S TV

WATCHING the first episode of **THE STATE WITHIN** (BBC1), you had to wonder what George Smiley would have made of it all. The quiet hero of John le Carré's novels practised his craft with dead letter boxes, invisible ink and home-made gadgets, while hiding in assorted alleyways.

He'd probably choke on his scones at the thought of modern-day spies hacking into computer systems, or following targets without leaving the office. But he might be delighted to know that, decades later, junior spooks are still doing the old briefcase-switch trick in downtown Washington coffee-shops.

It was with a display of briefcase swapping that **The State Within** set out its stall, the case in question containing something that we

won't understand for a long time. As an intelligence officer beavered away on spy stuff, UK Ambassador Sir Mark Brydon took the diplomatic flak when a British-born terrorist blew up an American plane. Also, we have a Falklands veteran on Death Row for a crime he didn't commit, the Tyrgyzstan government backing Islamic extremists and a US governor slamming all British Muslims in jail.

Hook

With its relentless pace and complex soup of international skulduggery, this show has more than a whiff of the cult U.S. import 24 about it.

And if you can be 100 per cent certain that you're going to be in front of the box with a

notepad and no distractions every Thursday night for the next six weeks, then you might just might be able to make sense of it all.

But whereas 24 kick-started each series with a definite hook - like the main character's family being kidnapped - there seemed to be no obvious focus to this one.

There's a bلاك at the centre of a diplomatic crisis - which is never going to be as interesting as a personal crisis, even when world peace is at stake - and a dozen little puzzles surrounding him, introduced at this stage in far too brief and confusing a way to truly capture our interest.

It deserves at least a second chance to prove itself - but you wonder if George Smiley would have been so charitable.

FILMS

SKY MOVIES 1

7.10am A Bear Named Winnie (2004) (PG) Fact-based drama, starring Michael Fassbender. 98388715

8.50 In The Army Now (1994) (PG) Comedy, starring Pauly Shore. 86046574

10.25 Woman With A Past (1992) (PG) Fact-based drama, Pamela Reed stars. 17785501

12.05pm Star Wars: Episode II - Attack Of The Clones (2002) (PG) Sci-fi sequel, starring Ewan McGregor. 97819135

2.30 The Jewel Of The Nile (1985) (PG) Action comedy sequel, starring Michael Douglas. 15194680

4.20 In The Army Now (1994) (PG) Comedy, starring Pauly Shore. 40828338

5.55 Rules Of Sci-Fi A preview of forthcoming movies. 953864

6.25 Woman With A Past (1992) (PG) Fact-based drama, Pamela Reed stars. 89920864

8.00 The Jewel Of The Nile (1985) (PG) Action comedy sequel, starring Michael Douglas. 52338

10.00 Star Wars: Episode II - Attack Of The Clones (2002) (PG) Sci-fi sequel, starring Ewan McGregor. 67201086

12.25am My Fellow Americans (1996) (PG) Comedy, starring Jack Lemmon. 967891

2.10 Never Die Alone (2004) (18) Crime thriller, starring DMX. 626549

RADIO

Radio 1 (FM: 97.6-99.8 MHz) 7.00 Chris Moyles. 10.00 Jo Whiley. 12.45 Newsbeat. 1.00 Edith Bowman. 4.00 Scott Mills. 6.00 Scott Mills' Floor Fillers. 7.00 The Essential Selection With Pete Tong. 9.00 The 1Xtra Takeover With Ace & Vis. 10.00 Annie Mac's Mash Up. 12.00 Fabio And Grooverider. 2.00 In New DJs We Trust. 4.00 Radio 1's After Show With The Trophy Twins.

Radio 2 (FM: 88.9-92.2 MHz) 6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 12.00 Patrol. 7.30 Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jeremy Vine. 2.00 Steve Wright. 5.00 Stuart Maconie. 7.00 What The World Needs Now - Bur Bacharach Story. 7.30 Friday Night Is Music Night. Performance by the BBC Concert Orchestra. 9.15 Alfie. 9.30 Listen To The Band. 10.00 The Weekender. 12.00 Mark Lamarr. 3.00 Pete Mitchell.

Radio 5 Live (MW: 909, 693 kHz) 5.00 Morning Reports. 5.30 Wake Up To Money. 6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 Victoria Derbyshire. 12.00 The Midday News. 1.00 Simon Mayo. 4.00 Drive. 7.00 Five Live Sport. 10.00 Stephen Nolan. 1.00-5.00 Up All Night.

Virgin Radio (MW: 1215, 1197, 1242 kHz) 6.00 Christian O'Connell's Breakfast Show. 10.00 Russ Williams. 1.00 Neil Francis. 4.00 Martin Collins. 6.00 Party Classics. 10.00 Robin Burke. 1.00 The Edge. 3.00 Steve Harris.

SPORT

SKY SPORTS 1 LED

6.00am International Cricket 40135 8.00

Football League Review 45796 8.30

The Rugby Club 73999 10.00 Aerobics 83311

10.30 Football League Review 24203 11.00

The Rugby Club 35086 12.30pm Premier League Snooker 7287512

4.00 Transworld Sport 56680

5.00 Premier League Preview 2883

5.30 FIFA Futbol Mundial 2512

6.00 Soccer AM's All Sports Show

6.00 Soccer AM's All Sports Show

6.2951 7.00 Premier League Preview

The weekend's fixtures. 9319 7.30 Live Victory Shield Football Scotland v Wales (Kick-off 7.45pm). Latest match in the youth tournament. 803777 10.00 Live Friday Night

Carl-Johansson v Femi Fehintola. Coverage of the British Super Featherweight title bout. 43116 12.00midnight Victory Shield Football 10297 1.30 Live Premier League

Preview 75013 2.00 Friday Night 96617

4.00 Soccer AM's All Sports Show 54029 5.00

Premier League Preview 86094

5.30-6.00 FIFA Futbol Mundial 94988

6.00am Aerobics Oz Style 3399135 6.30

Shift Adventure Snowriders 1030357 7.00

Aerobics Oz Style 3907154 7.30 Shift

Adventure Snowriders 3986661 8.00 Race

World 7389116 9.00 Shift Adventure

Snowriders 3402834 9.30 European Drag

SKY SPORTS 2

6.00am Aerobics Oz Style 3399135 6.30

Shift Adventure Snowriders 1030357 7.00

Aerobics Oz Style 3907154 7.30 Shift

Adventure Snowriders 3986661 8.00 Race

World 7389116 9.00 Shift Adventure

Snowriders 3402834 9.30 European Drag

SKY SPORTS 3

7.30am Premier League Snooker 95268135

11.00 Racing News 70153048 11.30

Aerobics Oz Style 70154777 12.00noon

Sportnation 42090970 1.00 Race World

44285390 2.00 Shift Adventure Snowriders

69230067 2.30 NBA Action 38957999 3.00

Sportnation 70158593 4.00 Moto Plus

38631951 4.30 World Sport 38637135

5.00 WWE: Raw 52641241 7.00 Tight

Lines Fishing phone-in. 52228086 8.00

Endzone American football magazine.

52204406 9.00 Moto Plus Motor sport

magazine. 70166512 9.30 World Sport

The latest events. 44217999 10.00 WWE: Late

Night - Smackdown 70157864

12.00midnight WWE: Late Night - Bottom Line 31296891 1.00 Tight Lines 47605075

2.00 Thinking Tackle 59513810 3.00 Endzone

58304162 4.00 Victory Shield Football

23145075 5.30 Motor Sport 48469365

SKY SPORTS 4

6.00am Music: Uninterrupted 7.30

Wake Up With Ewan McGregor 8.30

Whatever You Want 11.00 Nothing

But 2000 **Noon: Music: Uninterrupted**

1.00 Freshly Squeezed Extra 2.00

The OC 2.55 Beauty & The Geek

4.00 Scrubs 4.30 Hollyoaks 5.00

Friends 6.00 The OC 7.00 Hollyoaks

7.30 Scrubs 8.00 Friends 9.00 Stop

Treating Me Like A Kid 10.00

Unanimous: The Fallout 10.30 Film:

The Blair Witch Project (15) 12.05pm

Porn: A Family Business 12.45pm

A Family Business 1.20 Stop Treatment

Me Like A Kid 2.20 Beauty And The Geek

3.20am Originals: Allen Toussaint

Touch 1.25 Sailing Jazz 2.25 Lead

Balloon 2.55 Nation On Film 3.25

Originals: Allen Toussaint

4.00am Music: Uninterrupted

5.00am Racing News 70153048

6.00am Aerobics Oz Style 3399135

7.00am Football League Review 2555796

8.00am The Rugby Club 6332651 9.30 Live

Up

9.00am Aerobics 83311

10.00 Soccer AM's All Sports Show

11.00 Soccer AM's All Sports Show

12.00pm Football

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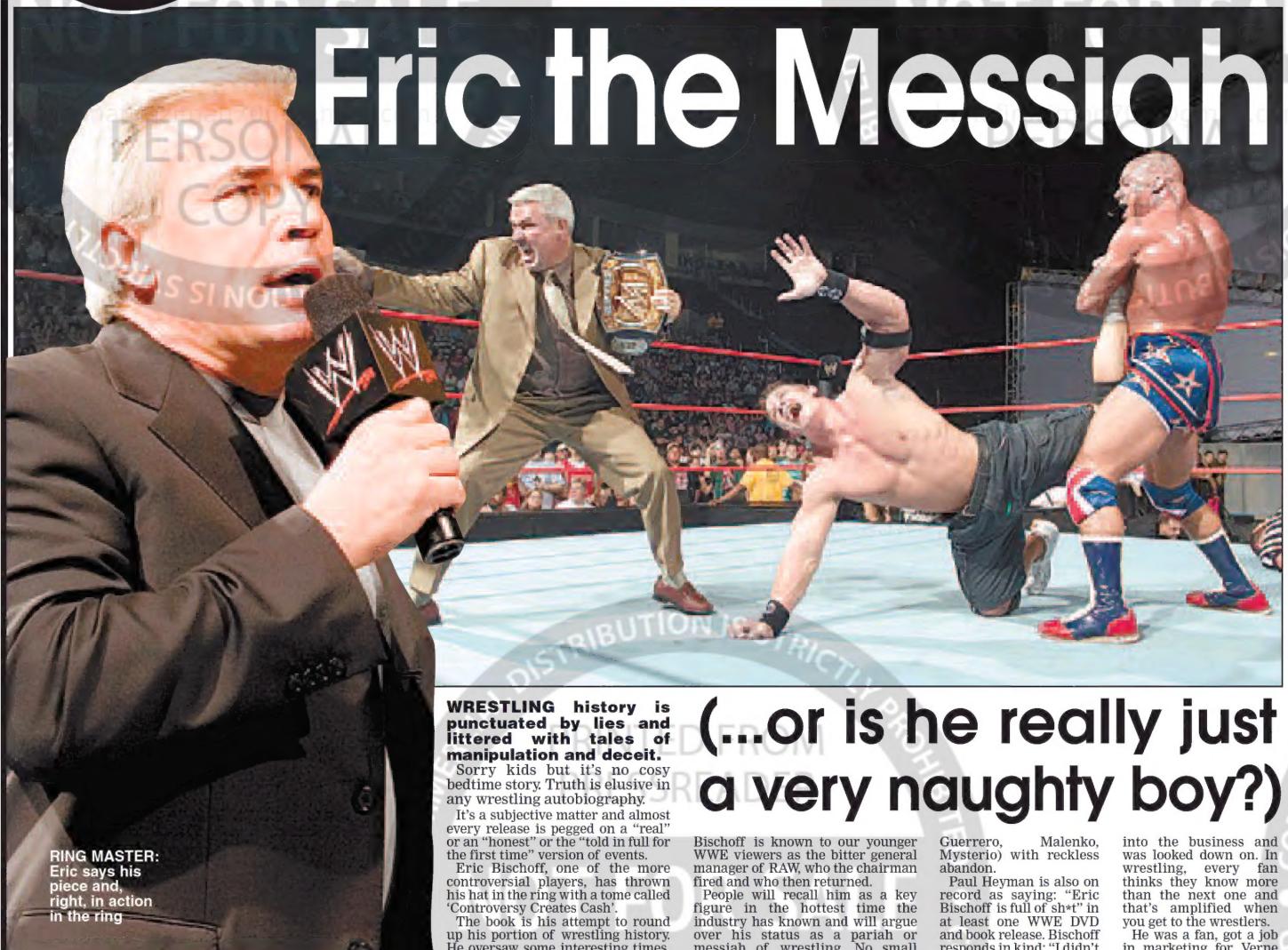
90.00pm Football

THE
Briccoes v Aries
and Strong is the
highlight of Unified,
the DVD of the ROH show at
Liverpool earlier this year. The
match is closely followed by
Doug and Jody against
SUWA and Go Shiozaki.
Available soon at
www.rohwrestling.com

FIGHTIN' TALK

patrick.lennon@dailystar.co.uk

Edited by
**PATRICK
LENNON**



WRESTLING history is punctuated by lies and littered with tales of manipulation and deceit.

Sorry kids but it's no cosy bedtime story. Truth is elusive in any wrestling autobiography.

It's a subjective matter and almost every release is pegged on a "real" or an "honest" or the "told in full for the first time" version of events.

Eric Bischoff, one of the more controversial players, has thrown his hat in the ring with a tome called 'Controversy Creates Cash'.

The book is his attempt to round up his portion of wrestling history. He oversaw some interesting times.

(...or is he really just a very naughty boy?)

RING MASTER:
Eric says his
piece and,
right, in action
in the ring

Bischoff is known to our younger WWE viewers as the bitter general manager of RAW, who the chairman fired and who then returned.

People will recall him as a key figure in the hottest time the industry has known and will argue over his status as a pariah or messiah of wrestling. No small number of people have had their say on Bischoff.

FT has interviewed many vets who love or hate the man in equal measure.

But all the feelings stem from Bischoff's reign in WCW, which competed with Vince McMahon's WWF during the 90s in a period dubbed the Monday Night Wars, when Bischoff's show Nitro wiped the floor with WWF's Raw for about 80 weeks.

Bischoff is one of the few men who took Vince on head to head with any success, then it all went wrong. Vince bought out WCW - giving us today's WWE monopoly.

A popular version of history you will hear is that Bischoff "destroyed" WCW and ran it into the floor. Another is that he poached wrestlers from Vince (Hulk Hogan, Randy Savage) and Heymans ECW (Benoit,

Guerrero, Malenko, Mysterio) with reckless abandon.

Paul Heyman is also on record as saying: "Eric Bischoff is full of sh*t" in at least one WWE DVD and book release. Bischoff responds in kind: "I didn't give a flying f*ck about Paul Heyman or ECW."

"Every once in a while I'd get a call from someone who'd say, 'Hey, I haven't had a cheque from Paul Heyman in three months.'

"He keeps telling me the cheque is in the mail but it's not. I need to work. Will you hire me?"

Laugh

"I'd take a look at the situation and maybe I'd hire them. That's all there ever was to it. Nothing sinister, nothing dark and evil. It was just business."

"Do I respect him creatively? Yes. Do I believe he's so full of sh*t he believes his own lies? Absolutely. And so do others who've worked with him."

Bischoff admits he was not a wrestling person at the outset. What he means is that he'd never been in the ring as a wrestler before he got

into the business and was looked down on. In wrestling, every fan thinks they know more than the next one and that's amplified when you get to the wrestlers.

He was a fan, got a job in marketing for Verne Gagne in AWA before branching into television production with the Turner Network and getting his gig at WCW.

He's a man who has always had heat for not paying his dues. He's a bloke who has always had heat because he was not a man to dole out jobs for the boys, but rather run an entertainment business for profit.

Bischoff and his ghost writer Jeremy Edwards have come up with an engaging writing style and the contentious issues are dealt with in candid fashion.

'Controversy Creates Cash' is one of the better accounts of this business that we've read. FT recommends it for your Christmas list.

Oh, and Cyber Sunday this Sunday night.

● *Controversy Creates Cash is out in all good shops on November 20.*

LIFTING THE LID ON HULK

ERIC Bischoff's account of WCW's demise is compelling. He claims WCW fell foul of a corporate giant which swelled egos and damaged lines of communication beyond repair.

In any industry people of vision and talent are often scuppered by feckless bean counters. It's hardly beyond the realms of possibility.

Hulk Hogan's creative control

clause is worked through, the Flair affairs are treated in simple and effective terms and pretty much every piece of puff and bluster I've heard seventy-fifth hand through the internet or in newsletters is treated with derision.

After their first titanic meeting, which Hogan won at Bash at the Beach in 1994, Flair was expecting Hulk to do business. Hogan

exercised his rights and Flair was piqued, according to Eric.

He writes: "The rub came when Hogan wasn't interested in returning the favour by giving Flair the win in their next match.

"That's when Ric realised this was all about Hogan and Ric Flair was a secondary talent. That was hard on Ric's ego. And that's understandable.

"I don't think Ric thought that we were going to make him really retire. But he used the situation to negotiate a long-term contract for himself, using the Halloween Havoc match to, in effect, hold us up."

Bischoff's attitude is take it or leave it. He is not a fan of wrestling journalists. He refuses to call them editors or writers. FT has asked for an interview in a belated attempt to restore his faith!

this question: How many times has John Cena been world champion in WWE?

Answers to fighting talk@dailystar.co.uk by Monday please.

One entry per person and normal Daily Star competition rules apply.

Come on if you think you're hard enough! E-mail me with your views...I dare you!

Just Jane



JANE O'GORMAN SOLVES
YOUR PROBLEMS TODAY
... AND EVERY DAY

Booze is key factor

EVERY single relationship I've had has been based around booze.

I've met all of my boyfriends in pubs and thoroughly enjoyed getting drunk, behaving outrageously and having a laugh with them.

I can stop at any time and go for weeks without having a drop.

But it has suddenly dawned on me that every single one of my men has been an alcoholic.

In the past month I've bumped into two former partners, both of whom have become total wrecks.

I'm currently single and can't remember the last drink I had.

Party

It wouldn't bother me if I never drank again, but why have I always been attracted to these self-destructive men?

And how can I stop it happening again?

JANE SAYS: I suspect that you were/are seduced by heavy drinkers because they're invariably the life and soul of the party.

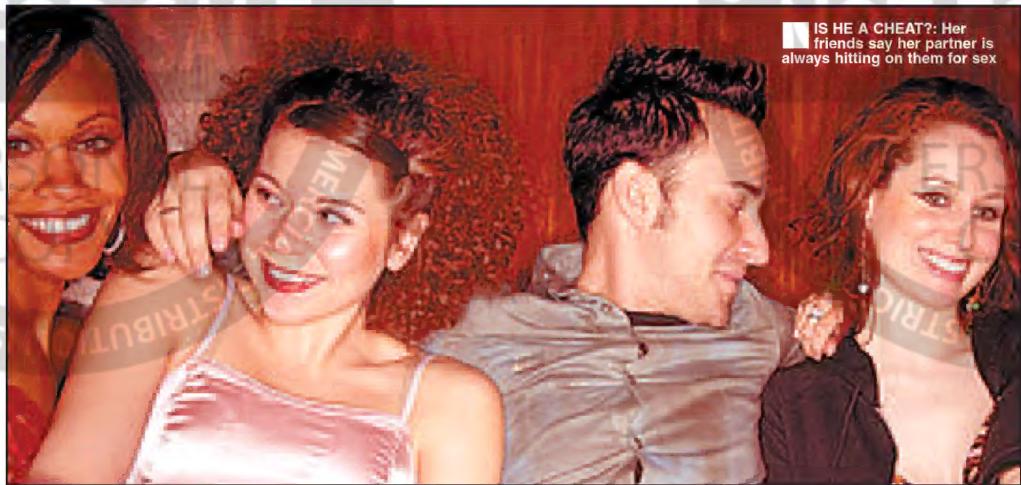
Their outrageous and generous – simply because they're desperate to get everyone else as drunk as they are.

No one likes to drink alone and your boozy boyfriends clearly found a kindred spirit in you.

Just count yourself very lucky that you have never become addicted yourself.

Make sure you learn from your mistakes; watch out for the signs to avoid in future.

If you ever need any support you can call Alcoholics Anonymous (0845 769 7555).



IS HE A CHEAT?: Her friends say her partner is always hitting on them for sex



TWO weeks ago I published this letter from a reader who wanted to know what to do.

I'M 12 weeks pregnant but my boyfriend doesn't want to know. The night I told him I was going to have his child he walked out and I haven't seen or spoken to him since.

I'm constantly badgering his friends to find out what he's thinking, but they're definitely closing ranks and I have no idea where I stand.

My sister recently saw him in the street and reports that he looked dreadful and literally ran away from her.

Here are some of your answers.

MY ex-boyfriend couldn't handle becoming a dad either and I went through my whole pregnancy alone.

Once our son was born, my sister persuaded him to visit me and we have some contact.

But, basically, I'm a single mum and have to get on with it. Tell your reader that she'll survive – she has to.

CHLOE HOLMES, Newcastle.

WHEN my partner left me I thought it was the end of the world. But with the support of my family and friends, I've managed to bring up my daughter alone and coped well.

Sometimes I'm almost glad that I can just do as I want and not have to take a domineering man's views, moods or plans into consideration.

SUZIE PALMER, Rochester, Kent.

MY partner came back to me when our son was six months old. He's now a great dad and bitterly regrets leaving me when I was pregnant.

It's been hard but we've managed to work things out and stay together. Your reader shouldn't lose hope.

Her fears might still see sense and return.

NAME WITHHELD

Now for this week's letter. Write to the address at the bottom of the page and tell me what you think about this.

A selection will be published in TWO weeks.

I CAN'T stop thinking about a guy I used to go out with. He was absolutely gorgeous and everything I've ever looked for in a man.

We only dated for three months but it was the happiest time of my life. Since then I've been in three long-term relationships but still no one compares to him.

I'm just about to dump my current lover as I can't get "him" out of my mind and I know it's not healthy.

FELLA IS BEGGING MY PALS FOR SEX

THREE friends have warned me that my partner has tried it on with them.

One says he asked her outright if she'd like to have sex with him. Another says he tried to snog her at a party and then rang her every day for a week begging for a date.

Yet whenever I tackle him, he says it's

rubbish. He swears that he loves me and would never cheat. He maintains that these women are lying and are simply trying to break us up because they're jealous of me.

I don't know what to think any more. I love my man so much. He's really sexy, charming and fun and has a great job.

Sex with him has always been amazing and my life has simply never been better. If I lost

him, then I'd lose everything, so I can't afford to upset him or get things wrong.

But, at the same time, I have all these worries about his behaviour when he's away from me.

Yes, I do appear to have it all and other women could be jealous. But why would three separate women make up these stories?

One is a very successful businesswoman with a lovely husband of her own. Two days ago, my best friend left a message saying she'd heard fresh rumours about my man.

Bury

I'm too frightened to call her in case they ring true. I'm petrified that my whole world is about to come crashing down.

Yet when my fella's at home with me, things couldn't be more perfect.

JANE SAYS: I can tell that you're tempted to bury your head and pretend that this is not happening. But you can't ignore these rumours.

I suspect this is just the tip of the iceberg. If your friends are telling you he's sniffing around them, the chances are he's doing a lot worse with other women.

You may have to brace yourself for the fact he's a womaniser, cheat and liar.

I suggest that you take a very deep breath and call a meeting.

Ask all of your friends to tell you what they know and present any evidence like text messages, e-mails, etc.

Ask for dates, times and incidents and build up a bigger picture.

It may be tempting to stay with him because he provides for you but you can't allow anyone to take advantage or treat you like a fool.

If he's sleeping around your sexual health is in danger too. Go to your GP and get yourself checked.

Grandparents spoiling the kids

I HATE the way my in-laws undermine me in front of my children.

They're always popping around and sneaking them sweets and fizzy drinks.

Sometimes, when I'm telling the kids off, my father-in-law will stand behind me pulling

stupid faces. I've asked them not to buy expensive toys and games but they just won't listen.

They're lovely and generous people, but I feel like I'm banging my head against a brick wall.

JANE SAYS: Perhaps it's time to lay down a few ground rules. Get your

in-laws on their own and explain you're unhappy with things.

Point out that toys, sweets and fizzy drinks are unhealthy and are turning your children into brats.

Ask them to understand you need their support. Obviously you don't want to fall out with them, but you must get tougher.

(Calls cost 75p per minute from a BT landline)

JANE'S ADVICE LINES

0906 751 3140

Find Your Soul Mate

0906 751 3141

Great Sex For Him

0906 751 3142

I Want Bigger Boobs

0906 751 3143

Sizzling Sex

0906 751 3144

Stop The Split

0906 751 3145

We Argue all the Time

0906 751 3146

My Sex Life is Boring

0906 751 3147

Confidence

0906 751 3148

Coping with a Break Up

0906 751 3149

Coping with jealousy

0906 751 3150

Fantastic Sex

0906 751 3151

Female orgasm

0906 751 3152

Finding the Perfect Partner

0906 751 3153

Great Sex For Her

0906 751 3154

I'm so lonely

0906 751 3155

Loving for the first time

0906 751 3156

Partner Affair

0906 751 3157

Having sex after baby

Write to JUST JANE, Daily Star, 10 Lower Thames Street, London EC3R 6EN or email jane.gorman@dailystar.co.uk

I CAUGHT HIM OUT

Day five

A WHILE AFTER BEN HAS LEFT...

1

Oh, there's Ben's gym bag with all his kit in it - what a twit to leave it behind



2 SHE OPENS THE BAG

I'll take it down the gym to him, but I'll have a little look first



3

What on earth are these doing in here? We haven't used condoms in years



4 ALI PANICS

I'll have to put the bag back just where I found it... I need time to think about what those condoms mean



CONTINUES TOMORROW

Justin Toper

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Calls cost 75p per minute from a BT landline.

To receive daily texts
send DSAR1 to 85100

0906 751 5771 (01) *



Aries

(Mar 21-Apr 20)

YOU can forget all your worries because something is about to fall into your lap. Or it might be that you may bump into a person who has the information that you need today. Call it an anonymous tip-off but it's very good for business. But can you afford to turn your back on it? To see how you can pull a rabbit out of the hat, call...

To receive daily texts
send DSTAU to 85100

0906 751 5771 (02) *



Taurus

(Apr 21-May 21)

A PARTNER or someone else has a wicked sense of humour but it's not a laughing matter. Remember, the approaching full Moon occurs in Taurus and you must allow for some emotional mistakes. What you do next is understandable and it could also alleviate boredom. To see why you've still got friends, call...

To receive daily texts
send DSTAU to 85100

0906 751 5771 (02) *



Gemini

(May 22-June 22)

OBVIOUSLY certain people are not impressed with your work. However, you still have the influence of those who really matter. The Sun is brilliantly aspected by Uranus and you may be asked to make a special contribution today. The sole purpose being? To see why you are a trainee no more, call...

To receive daily texts
send DSGEM to 85100

0906 751 5771 (03) *



Leo

(July 24-Aug 23)

A DOMESTIC matter can be resolved quickly. The cashflow has to be faster, though. But certain associates couldn't be fairer with you. Aside from being richer, you might be benevolent to a debtor. What do you want - wealth or happiness? A selfless act is called for today. To find out about a great giveaway, call...

To receive daily texts
send DSOLEO to 85100

0906 751 5771 (05) *



Virgo

(Aug 24-Sep 22)

DEVOTING ample time to partners might be difficult. In fact, you could find yourself on a merry-go-round of events. Make sure you don't linger too long in one place. Meanwhile, the full Moon this Sunday is the precise moment when the call comes to go home. To find out about a starry gathering, call...

To receive daily texts
send DSVIR to 85100

0906 751 5771 (06) *



Libra

(Sep 24-Oct 23)

YOUR work or daily routine may not be very structured at the moment. However a transformation has begun. You should just be happy that your health is intact. Whether you complete a transaction in time is very debatable. But you can expect an additional bonus today. To see why you finally feel worthy, call...

To receive daily texts
send DSLIB to 85100

0906 751 5771 (07) *



Scorpio

(Oct 24-Nov 22)

A STUNNING link involving the Sun in Scorpio and Uranus in Pisces has to bring out the romance in you and you're happy. Maybe you would appreciate it if others kept their hands off. Either way, you will melt or put up a fight today. The former, damn it. To see why, emotionally, what happens is not that wrenching, call...

To receive daily texts
send DSSCO to 85100

0906 751 5771 (08) *



Sagittarius

(Nov 23-Dec 22)

THINGS are pretty chaotic, both at home and at work. In fact, the family or one bond will be quickly forgotten in the melee. Even if nothing earth-shattering happens, there is a possibility that someone will leave suddenly today. Accept it, don't stop them. You will soon see the positive side. To see why a change of address is promised, call...

To receive daily texts
send DSSAG to 85100

0906 751 5771 (09) *



Capricorn

(Dec 22-Jan 20)

YOU are not the only one who is attracting a lot of attention. In fact, you will be discussing a friend today. Hopefully, they won't talk about you like that. It's very likely you found out where your devotion lies. That's exactly what you will be doing - and enjoying it. To see why there is more fun to be had, call...

To receive daily texts
send DSCAP to 85100

0906 751 5771 (10) *



Aquarius

(Jan 21-Feb 19)

MAYBE you work for a non-profit making organisation. However, you still expect to be paid. Yet your prospects haven't been this exciting in ages. In any case, you will need to carefully consider an offer today. More so if you have a young family. You will be backed 100%. To see why, if you give a little, you gain a lot, call...

To receive daily texts
send DSAQU to 85100

0906 751 5771 (11) *



Pisces

(Feb 20-Mar 20)

NORMALLY you wouldn't say boo to a goose. However your behaviour may be considered outrageous or your actions could be surprising. Is it because you are trying to get close to certain people? You are welcome today. Elsewhere, there will be a lot of dodging around. To see why you can't avoid the frenzy, call...

To receive daily texts
send DPSPI to 85100

0906 751 5771 (12) *

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Ghosthunters turn **Alton Towers** into a scream park



WE all have a ghost story to tell after a few beers. But are they tricks of the mind or real evidence of the supernatural?

That's the question Dr Rebecca Knibb, 34, and a team from Derby University set themselves at Alton Towers for the world's biggest ever ghost hunt. Around

1,000 people joined the ghostbusters in the ruins of Alton Towers' crumbling Victorian mansion on Halloween night.

But did they find any evidence of ghostly goings on?

The Daily Star's fearless **PHIL BOUCHER** joined the ghostbusting gang to find out...



INQUIRY: Dr Knibb

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SPIRITED BUNCH: Huge crowd turned out for the ghost hunt

FORGET about leaping into a converted hearse and strapping on a laser blaster.

The only gadgets involved in REAL ghost hunting are tiny monitors that scan for magnetic fields, heat vapours, light – and just about anything else in the natural world.

"We closely monitor the environment to see if there's any physical evidence to match up with people's sightings," explains Dr Knibb.

"That way we can tell if it's all in the mind or has some physical evidence."

Task

The 870 volunteers had a far more straightforward task.

Our instructions were simply to walk through Alton Towers' eerie gothic mansion and keep watch for any strange sights, sounds or feelings.

And while Rita Queen of Speed is normally the scariest thing in Alton Towers, it's the perfect place to catch sight of a spookier sight.

Over the years 15 ghosts have been spotted at the Victorian mansion – including a lady dressed in a black wedding dress,

who's been seen more than any other character.

Ghost hunter Martin Jeffrey, 34, who organised the event, explains: "She was first seen in the 1950s by a man who walked into the library with his dog and the dog suddenly started barking."

"He looked up and saw this woman with a thin

black lace veil covering her face staring down at him."

"These stories have continued year in and year out – from the staff and members of the public, who sometimes think she's a guide!"

"More recently, a female worker saw a tall dark gentleman wearing Vic-

torian clothes pass her when she disappears through the chapel roof."

"Poltergeists have also been reported. Visitors and staff have had small stones and objects thrown near them from a horizontal position."

Sadly, I was unable to say hello to the veiled lady or catch a flying stone in the mush. But walk into a creepy gothic mansion on Halloween and you will believe anything's possible.

Task

Three minutes into my ghost hunt I saw a strange orange light flickering beneath a gantry.

By the time I was in the next room I started hearing all manner of strange noises from the room.

Chances are these were simply caused by a combination of poor lighting and a howling wind rattling through the ruins.

But who knows for sure?

For info on other Fright Night events call 0114 251 3232 or go to www.frightnights.co.uk.

Why do things go bump?

MOST ghost sightings can be easily explained. Here Martin Jeffrey (inset) explains some of the most common mistakes:



mistakes are in houses where people hear the sounds of footsteps at night or furniture moving around. If you're in a terrace it's possible to hear noises from three doors down, so it's normally a neighbour getting a drink.

"The same goes for creaking floorboards and banging in the loft. People have seen so many supernatural shows on TV their rational side goes out the window. In 97% of cases there is a very normal cause. But that leaves 3% that cannot be explained."

"WE get a lot of what we call 'orb photographs' as people have seen these in the movies and think it is supernatural.

"We worked out years ago that it's caused by the flash catching an airborne particle and lighting it up.

"Fuji and Sony actually admit it as a fault in the FAQ section of their websites. But the most common

ALL NEW

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TO 82100

Text DSTAR followed by a space, then your name and comment, and send to 82100. Texts cost 25p plus your normal mobile operator cost.

Even Emmerdale is better than Corrie St!

how can the bag of sh**t that is eastenders b most popular? More ppl watch corrie, even emerdale is a zillion times better. **karen**

can sum tell me how eastenders keeps winnin best soap? It's rubbish! Corrie n emerdale much betta! Ps paul ogred best thing on tv! L DOES ANY1 AGREE IF SOAPS WON AWARDS BY THE VIEWIN NUMBERS SAENDERNS WOULD NOT WIN ANYTHING IT MUST B A FIX COS IT SO BORING X. **HAZA**

Can sum1 tell my mrs 2 take her mask off? halloween is ova. **eddie flavin**

the horse in black beauty was called Beauty, of course! **heather gateshead**

2 Ste: fink horse in black beauty was called bonanza. **Sinead, Manc**

to ste newcould: it was called champion. **R. S.**

will u please stop making such a big deal about pete doherty! the man is an untalented drugged-up waster and 1st class a***hole. **gaz kiddermister**

i have been buying this paper from day 1 and i can't believe u wasted 2 pages on that waste of space knobhead doherty. **lefty**

is anyone fed up of seeing pete doherty in star? wat a druggie and loser **Wildman**

i was expecting to see breasts in the centre pages but instead i saw the biggest tit ever pete doherty dont waste my time with that loser. **Big Phil**

Guys: let's not have days of txts saying who has the better job. Remember, we're all God's children. **EMT**

where do monkey nuts come from? **mark kane, hamilton**

best two cartoon themes ever

mysterious cities of gold and pole position! Top stuff. **dj zeo**

i've got a new name for Kerry Katona - M62 J9... The Warrington Turn-Off. **Warren Ratcliffe**

Westhoughton

2 annoyed: its people like u who coz road rage. If the obstructions on your side, u pull in. **Edson Arantes**

it's people like u that get on my wick. the obstruction is on your side, so you must stop and proceed when clear, not the other way round. **Annoyed**

COLLEEN: NEVA HERD OF THA DALEKS? NICE GEL BUT NO BRAIN. **VIV NOTTM**

women are stupid and cant think 4 themselves! if men do it they do it. **sheep! mel leads**

2 gante: oasis still the best band around. Liam and Noel still geniuses, rock n roll stars 4ever. **shakermaker**

2 pp: If u had several and some1 gave u a few more, u'd have the best part of a gud few. **BAZZIE**

y do men who work on building sites always want more money? 4 me bein a 4man now it effects my bonus. i say more indians and poles - they work 4 nothin. **sean hogg, WIDNES**

The next person i see fiddling with their satellite navigation gadget while driving im gonna jump on it at the next set of lights! **Blue van man**

2 daninblack - benny hill got more number 1 hits than the stranglers. **POGUL**

Sick of seeing Vicky Becks poncing & posing around shops. **Lady Vic?** Please no - she'd be even more unbearable! **Brian, Mid Wales**

y r paedophiles on incapacity benefits allowed to stay in thailand for six months a year abusing children and getting paid 4 it? **jazz**

Totally agree, W Carlise: Meat Loaf is an absolute legend - 30 years and still rockin'. the man is a genius. **matt and ri**

To all you lazy parents out there - stop driving your kids to school and use your legs. You'll cause much less pollution around schools. **Monkeynuts**

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me @ hillsborough with
goalkeeper scott carson
connor brady

My sexy dream of Nikki'

NIKKI GRAHAME USED TO GET ON MY NERVES AND MAKE MY BLOOD BOIL, BUT THE OTHER NIGHT I HAD AN EROTIC DREAM ABOUT HER. I NOW LOVE THE GIRL. **EMS, NORTH WALES**

Blair... clamping down on benefit fraud? He doesn't like anybody but himself cheatin' the hard working people of britain. **Steve L'pool NHS** SPEND £300 MILLION ON REMOVING

TATTOOS. I SAY: IF YOU PAID TO GET THEM PUT ON YOUR BODY, YOU SHOULD PAY TO HAVE THEM TAKEN OFF. **PAUL**

I READ DAILY STAR EVERY DAY AND IT'S FULL OF HOT CHICK. GIVE US LAYDEEZ SUMMAT 2 LUK AT. **NICE PIC OF FREDDIE LJUNGBERG IN BOXERS UL DO PLZ. **GEMA****

Im thinking of opening a pub that doesnt show footie, females only, music

channels, male staff, what do u girls think? **ALAN SMALL, EDINBURGH**

if there were no lorry drivers on our roads, there would be a lot less deaths. Get rid now. **DIRTY EDDIE**

i love truckers esp olda Ins love 2 go under there bonnet REAL hunks xxx **VIXEN**

im a roofer and i drive a large van. i find that 95% of lorry drivers are gents. like everything its minority that get noticed. **AUXIA**

FOR legal reasons, we are unable to respond to text messages. If you have a query that needs a reply, write to: Daily Star, 10 Lower Thames St, London EC3R 6EN.

You're havin' a LAUGH

WE pay £5 for jokes printed (not texts). Write to: You're Havin' A Laugh, Daily Star, 10 Lower Thames Street, London EC3R 6EN

A MAN got up one morning and went down to the kitchen to find his wife preparing boiled eggs for breakfast.

Suddenly, she turned to him and said: "Let's make mad, passionate love right now!"

So they made love on the kitchen table.

Afterwards, the husband said: "That was great! But why the sudden urgency?"

His wife replied: "The egg timer is broken."

MEL CADMAN, Telford, Shropshire.

TWO oranges walk into a bar. One orange turns to the other orange and says: "Your round!"

TONY BELL, Goole, East Yorkshire.

BOUGHT some shoes today, they only had one lace. Must be made in Taiwan.

MULLET, Nottingham.

Text DSJOKE (space) name and joke to 82100. Listen and laugh as your mate is wound up on 0905 235 8158. Calls cost £1 per minute.

LETTERS

EMAILS

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£10 LETTER

I WAS so sorry to read about Richard Hammond's crash - but spare a thought for those head injury victims who are not TV stars.

My husband was driving a dumper truck that rolled over. Like Richard, he was taken by air ambulance to hospital, where doctors saved his life.

Now Top Gear's Richard is tipped to get £1million with a book about his crash (Daily Star, October 28), while my husband has received nothing despite still suffering from his injuries.

Still, good luck to the Hamster. And I hope he puts the money towards something useful!

WORRIED WIFE, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire.

READER Colin Fenn's comments about Talksport (Letters, October 31) were way off the mark.

If he was a regular listener, he'd have heard the fine work of Michaela Parry, Gabriella Marcotti and Christina Cooper. (Sorry Mike, Gabrielle and Chris!) PAUL JACOBS, Cardiff.

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It's the business

'To err is human - and to blame it on a computer is even more so' - Robert Orben

Movers & groovers

If you hear the sound of a Ferrari roaring down the road behind you, take a look in the mirror because if might a Robin Reliant.

Car hi-fi distributor **Armour Group** will next year launch a product to make your motor sound like the car of dreams thanks to a sonic library on the internet.

Chief executive George Dexter thinks it will be a big hit with boy racers who already shell out up to £5,000 on one of Armour's Mutant sound systems. "We can make a

Vauxhall Corsa sound like an Aston Martin V12," said Dexter as he unveiled annual sales of £43million and profits of £1.6m.

KIP Meek, the co-founder of media management consultancy **Spectrum**, is quitting the board of Ofcom, having been pipped to the chief executive post by Ed Richards.

One of Meek's claims to fame was hiring Martha Lane Fox before she co-founded **Lastminute.com**.

SAUSAGE maker **Cranswick** marked British Sausage Appreciation Week by gobbling up cooked meats producer **Delico** for £17.9m.

It gave Cranswick chairman Martin Davey access to a market worth a mouthwatering £1.3bn.

NORTHUMERIAN Water, seen as a bid target since the takeover of **Thames Water**, has switched its PR firm from **Finsbury to Pelham**. Sources stressed the change of adviser was nothing to do with a potential bid.

THE DEALER

HOT GOSSIP

Transense Technologies inflated 2.5% to 83p ahead of today's launch in the UK of a new tyre pressure monitoring system by Michelin using Transense sensors. The shares have risen from 45p in August on hopes that five years of work between the two firms will finally start paying off.

Healthy option for Unilever

UNILEVER, owner of brands such as Lipton tea and Persil, has seen its UK and European sales grow again - after revamping products to include healthy and fresh ingredients.

But chief executive Patrick Cescau revealed growth had come at the expense of profit,

which were down 20% to £521.5million.

Cescau has been battling to restore sales growth in Britain and Europe, where vicious competition with **Procter & Gamble** and other players has hit home.

He said focusing on healthy products was starting to

work and had helped the UK, France and Germany sales improve.

But cut-price promotions, heavy advertising and soaring raw material costs all reduced margins.

Shares gained 60p to 1354p but analysts were cautious about profit growth.

FAIR SHARES

DRUG makers' stocks took on a rosy glow after a report showing stronger than expected worldwide pharmaceutical sales. The UK's No.1 **GloboSmithKline** rose 22p to 1414p and No.2 **AstraZeneca** was 140p healthier at 3200p following the study by healthcare information group **IMS Health**. The FTSE 100 was down 0.3 points to 6149.3.

Phone a friend

Buy-up talk not healthy

Carphone peace bid with Vodafone

CARPHONE Warehouse yesterday announced it had begun talks with its disgruntled supplier Vodafone about a pan-European deal.

But boss Charles Dunstone could give no reassurance over whether the giant mobile operator would ever agree to use his stores in the UK.

And the news failed to restore investors' confidence as its shares fell 11p to 283.5p. Carphone shares dived 20% last month when Vodafone announced it was spurning the retailer in the UK in favour of an exclusive deal to sell contract phones through rival **Phones4U**.

Dunstone said he had seen no sign yet that the defection had hit sales. He said: "Business is doing very well."

But he conceded that Vodafone contract phones will not disappear from his 700 stores until December 1.

Crazy

The new talks are over selling Vodafone's contract and pay-as-you-go handsets in Carphone stores in Spain, Germany and France.

But Dunstone said he did not know if Vodafone would agree to come back to the UK stores.

Finance director Roger Taylor added: "We jointly agreed that our well-documented spat was crazy... and that we were better friends than enemies.

"But Dunstone said: "Things are moving in the right direction."

■ by BILL MARTIN

months ago ... on how we would both benefit from working more closely across Europe."

Meanwhile, Carphone revealed start-up costs of its **TalkTalk** broadband service and its **Virgin Mobile** joint venture in France had pushed it into a first-half loss of £4.66million against a £3.25m profit last year.

Dunstone pointed out that ignoring these costs, the underlying business showed profits growth of 60% to £59m.

TalkTalk is having to rent **BT** broadband lines for most customers at a cost of 5p per customer per month until it can hook them up to its own network.

So far it has managed to migrate just 60,000 of the 625,000 who have applied for the service.

But Dunstone said: "Things are moving in the right direction."

news@digitalstar.co.uk

Pubs tonic

FLOCKS of families and single women looking to enjoy smoke-free pubs have sent **JD Wetherspoon's** sales soaring, the company said yesterday.

The 650-strong pub group, founded by Tim Martin, right, said sales had risen by 5.2% for the first three months to September in its 39 pubs in Scotland, where smoking has been banned since March.

The shares rose 23.25p to 588.5p.



SHARES in healthcare group **Smith & Nephew** were the biggest casualty in the FTSE 100 yesterday after it revealed it is in talks to buy American rival **Biomet**.

Smith & Nephew boss Sir Christopher O'Donnell said S&N has held "very preliminary talks" with Biomet, which is listed in New York.

"No agreement has been reached," he insisted. "We will only proceed if it creates shareholder value."

But the market's assessment was still negative. Shares in S&N, which makes hi-tech hip and knee replacements, closed down 21.52p at 487.75p - a fall of more than 4%.

Price

Analysts are worried S&N might help pay the estimated £6billion price tag for Biomet by issuing new shares, leading to lower payouts for shareholders in the short term.

But a tie-up would help S&N take on larger rivals such as **Johnson & Johnson**.

O'Donnell admitted at yesterday's third quarter trading update that S&N's profit margins are "decent" but not "best-in-class".

Like S&N, Biomet makes high-tech hip and knee replacements and last year generated sales of £2bn. It has a market value of about £5.14bn.

FTSE100 SHARE INDEX ▼ Down 0.3 points (-0.00%) at 6149.30

Company	Price	Change	High	Low	▼	Company	Price	Change	High	Low	▼	Company	Price	Change	High	Low	▼	
SiG	954	+8	984	924	1470	Corus Group	458	-5	494	424	4530	Land Secs	1030	-14	1049	1029	1051	-650
AB Ford	843	+8	880	699	774	Diageo	971	-5	978	923	1029	Unilever	1448	-14	1466	1388	1553	-681
Alliance & Leic.	1123	-2	1249	845	2233	DSG Int'l	216	-2	222	146	1029	Lloyds Tsb Grp	559	-1	581	463	649	-620
Alliance Boots	797	-3	816	617	1009	Ent.Mms	1080	+11	1092	815	4713	Lumin	3021	+37	3093	1298	1038	-1024
AMVESCAP	598	-1	616	359	1124	Eximbank	559	-7	590	559	1029	Man Group	481	-1	488	261	7895	-1024
Argos	1048	-8	1116	949	2049	Friends Prop	2040	-2	218	165	7733	Marlboro & Sp.	481	-1	488	417	509	-660
Antifags	509	-6	516	293	3438	Gillaher Grp	896x1	-3	900	850	2222	Morrison (Wm)	259x1d	+2	261	163	1253	-123
Astrazeneca	3200	+8	3254	2541	1588	Next	670	-1	677	1024	1024	National Grid	670	-1	677	139	942	-649
Aviva	7688	-9	850	671	3388	Hammerston	1359	-2	1362	927	1024	Newry	1892	+7	1961	1330	1254	-1024
BAA Sys	4058	-10	449	329	1010	Hanson	741	-1	784	588	1024	North Rock	1098	+8	1213	804	3553	-1024
Barts	676	-1	720	572	1004	Old Mutual	1040	-1	1100	3333	1024	Parsons Brinckerhoff	170x1d	+2	202	123	123	-1024
BIG Grp	676	+3	782	508	7274	HBO5	105	-1	1100	3333	1024	Pearson	759	+5	810	643	1374	-1024
BHP Bill.	1026	-10	1211	825	2423	HSBC Holdings	405	-1	405	399	1017	Persimmon	1333	+9	1428	910	2758	-1024
BP	586	-1	712	563	1011	Icarus	507	-2	572	344	4476	Prudential	659	-5	743	488	7481	-1024
Br Airways	465	-4	486	305	6258	Recruit Banker	1032	-3	406	294	2308	Royal Dutch Shell A'	1013xd	-8	1028	973	1050	-1024
Br Mktg.Tob.	1491	-9	150	110	1003	Imp. Chanc.	391	-3	406	294	1029	Royal Dutch Shell B'	1045xd	-8	1043	1755	1051	-1024
Br Land	1496	-16	1516	929	1128	Reed Elsevier	1061	-10	1061	1029	1029	SAP	1024	+6	1195	204	6601	-1024
Bradford & Birm.	461	-3	504	331	1048	Resolution	619	-5	619	531	529	Scot.P&Power	655	-3	685	526	6028	-1024
Brambles Inds.	501	+4	504	331	1048	Reuters Grp	442	-6	460	348	6025	Scot.Newcastl.	565	+2	570	474	1421	-1024
Brit Eng.Gp	452	+19	753	404	14514	ITV	103	-1	128	94	2145	Scot.Power	655	-3	685	526	6028	-1024
BskyB	1020	-2	1020	932	1020	Jordan Matth.	1440	-1	1510	1178	1020	Shire Pharmet.	973	-2	995	959	2015	-1024
BT Group	280	+2	281	203	1012	Kingfisher	885	+13	911	693	264x1	Slimbridge	696	+7	720	529	1433	-1024
Cadbury-Sch.	524	-6	590	399	1016	Land Rover	1045	-1	1045	990	1029	Smith & Nephew	487xd	-21	571	400	1434	-1024
Calm Energy	1780	-7	2508	1735	3643	Rolls-Royce	453c	-1	490	367	6441	Smiths Group	932xd	-4	1052	831	1437	-1024
Capita Group	926	-1	960	384	5263	Royal Bank Scot.	1864	-15	1933	1604	1029	Spectro	135	-8	151	107	3577	-1024
Carillion	2068	-49	3077	2306	3026	Royal & Sun All.	148xd	+5	152	100	7482	Stand.Chart	1480	-8	1540	1193	1487	-1024
Centrica	2812	-2	336	230	1818	Standards & Poor's	2308	+23	2324	1712	1048	Standard Life	286	+1	289	238	1050	-1024
Centrica	2812	-2	336	230	1818	Real Estate	1029	-1	1029	1029	1029	State & Life	769	+10	776	471	4955	-1024
Compass Group	281	+2	283	197	7663	Resolute	619	-5	619	531	121	Tesco	404xd	-6	404	201	1056	-1024

Source: www.DigitalStar.com

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Aga merger is frozen out

AGA Foodservice, maker of the iconic stoves, yesterday revealed it wants to merge with different kitchenware maker **Enodis**.

The deal would create a £1.3billion cooker and fridges giant.

But Enodis, which has been the subject of two failed bids by US firms this year, last night said it was not interested.

Dave McCulloch, chief executive, said: "Enodis and Aga are two very different businesses."

Enodis concentrates

solely on chip pan

fries and the like for fast-food chains, having sold its

Magnet domestic kitchenware outlets.

Aga sells fridges and ovens to restaurants but more than half its sales are to homes.

It approached Enodis a fortnight ago wanting either a nil premium, all share merger or an acquisition of Enodis for no premium, half in Aga shares and half in cash.

But McCulloch said his board unanimously rejected the plan.

WK 45

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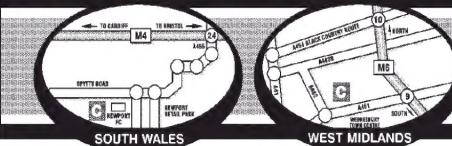
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SCOTTISH motoring journalists have been voting for their cars of the year, and it was Jaguar who took top spot with the stunning new XK Coupe, which in a total coincidence was designed by a Scotsman, Ian Callum. The XK took best sports car and overall winner. Other winners are: Small – Fiat Grande Punto; Family – Skoda Roomster; Luxury – Lexus IS; Drop top – Mazda MX-5; Diesel – Seat Leon TDI FR; MPV – Ford S-MAX; SUV – Audi Q7.

MOTOR MOUTH

Merc will drive

WELL, I've just looked up the dictionary definition of a psychopath and, strangely, there's not a mention of the Mercedes CLK 63 AMG.

Nope. It simply says "one with a mental disorder" which is weird.

I mean, clearly, the CLK 63 AMG has a mental disorder. For a week, it's been trying to kill me.

This has to be the maddest, baddest, most evil, violent car I've ever driven.

I've piloted some monsters in my time – including all sorts of potty AMGs – but as far as the mental ward is concerned the CLK tops the lot.

Okay, it's got some safety gadgets, like ABS and traction control.

Trouble is, when faced with 476bhp and 466lbs of torque the traction system kind of holds up its hands, waves a white flag, and surrenders. It's scary.

Power

No, no, wait. It's not scary. That's far too mild a word. It's absolutely bloody terrifying. My car wants to kill me. It wants to drink my blood.

Floor the throttle and there's so much power going through the back wheels it'll simply overtake the front.

In the wet, it's the most horrifying vehicle. A twitch of your right toes is quite sufficient, thank you. You'll still blaze away like a motorised bullet, while if you dared to push it, even slightly, you'd definitely, 100%, hit whatever was coming the other way.

The CLK AMG is pure evil, wrapped up in an angel's cloak.

Once you've learned how to drive it (like no other car) it can actually be quite rewarding.

It definitely does not clatter and bang like the SL 55 AMG – that's a road-going Messerschmitt fighter with a wonderful noise – no. Floor (sorry tickle) the throttle of the CLK AMG and it will immediately howl like something from the dark side.

It will totally, utterly, catapult you from 0-155mph in one relentless drag-like, slingshot surge of awesome power in around 25 seconds.

Mad? It's a screaming, wailing, bru-

FACTFILE

Mercedes CLK 63 AMG Cabrio .
PRICE (on the road): £68,815. (range from £29,910).
ENGINE: 6.208cc, all-alloy, 32-valve V8, with DOHC and variable valve timing. (476bhp, 466lb torque).
TOP SPEED: 155mph (limited); 0-62mph: 4.7secs.
MPG: Urban: 13.1; extra urban: 27.7; combined: 19.6.
CO₂: 344g/km.
INS GROUP: 20.



BEAUTY AND THE BEAST:
 Mental Merc is due an extended stay in the mental ward

and b) at an average 19mpg it's a tad bit on the thirsty side.

As a simple cruiser, without having to scare anyone within a mile (earshot) of the car it is totally sublime, exceptional.

In top gear, which is seventh in its standard auto box, you'll find yourself tooling along at 85mph at – and wait for this – just 2,000 rpm.

Yet, even in the same seventh gear, which sounds like an awful lot of cogs, floor it and it will still surge away in such a violent manner that I can think of no other car to match it.

Not even a BMW M5, which really is

dynamite. Quite simply, the CLK 63 AMG takes road-going motoring to new heights. You'd just laugh at the likes of Jaguar, Aston Martin, Ferrari, possibly even Lamborghini, in this ridiculous, way-over-the-top piece of mind-blowing kit.

League

It won't break the bank for folk with considerably more money than the rest of us, yet it will put them in the same performance league, and badge prestige, as cars costing twice as much, and more.

Good so far? No, substitute the word sensational. Now let's consider the

rest of this car. Hmm? As it's an AMG, you've got pretty much everything you could ever want as standard, except, maybe, a sat-nav system, standard on Lexus cars, but a whacking two-grand extra on the Merc, and that's a lot of dosh.

Then there's "keyless go" where the car recognises you are near because the keys are in your pocket, and unlocks itself as soon as you touch the door-handle.

In the 70-grand Merc it's a 900 quid extra. In the little 11-grand Renault Clio it's £250 for exactly the same system.

The boot's nothing to write home

ALL ABOARD THE CROSSE

THERE'S only one thing odder than the looks of the new Citroën C-Crosser (right) ... and that's its name.

Look lads, it's not a channel ferry. It's a car.

In fact, the letter "C" is supposed to stand for "Country" but when I pointed out to Citroën that it makes the car sound like a Sea Crosser they decided

that the name hasn't, after all, been finalised yet.

Whatever. The C-Tosser, sorry Crosser, goes on sale next summer at a starting price of, I expect, £18,000. It's a joint development with Mitsubishi, who've called their car the Outlander, though I suspect "Outlandish" would have been a better choice. Peugeot will also have a

version, which they've simply called the 4007. Citroën promise a combination of sporty looks and a vast interior will result in the perfect mix of comfort and road-holding.

Considering it's a seven-seater, with a folding third row of seats, along with selectable four-wheel drive, it looks like a bargain.





By GEORGE FOWLER

YOU MAD

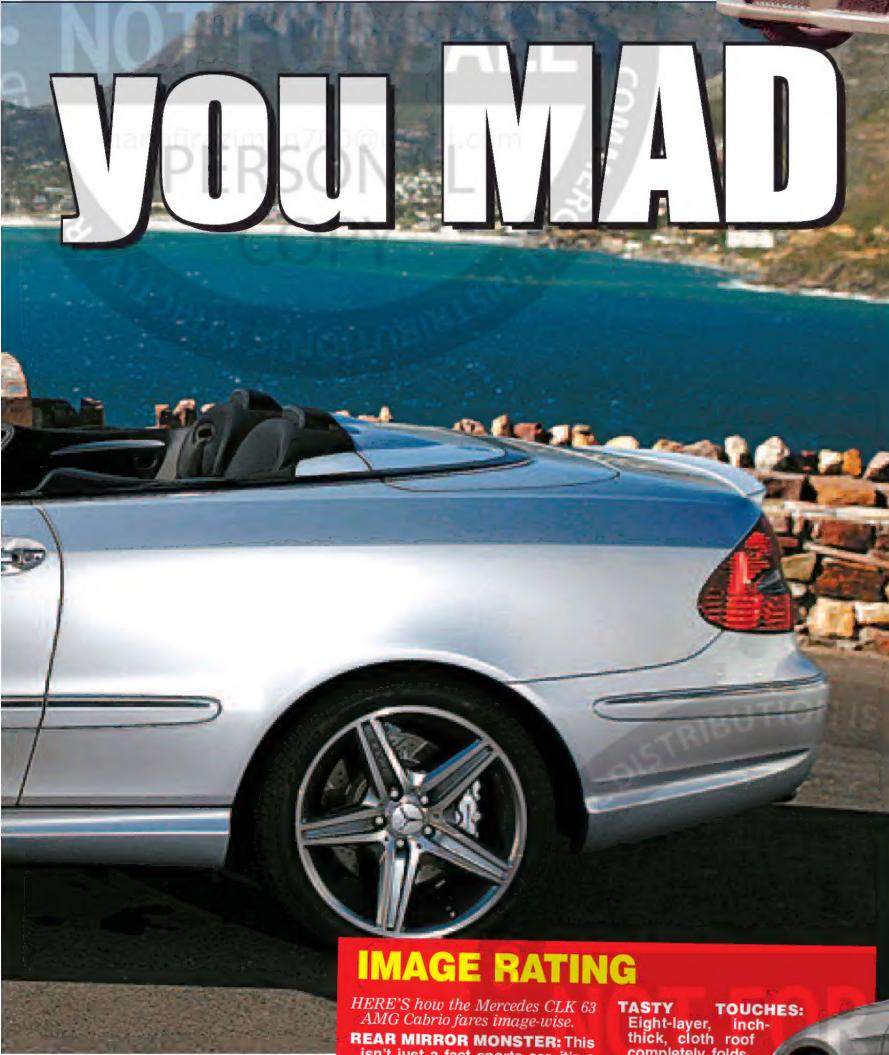


IMAGE RATING

HERE'S how the Mercedes CLK 63 AMG Cabrio fares image-wise.

REAR MIRROR MONSTER: This isn't just a fast sports car, it's a big sports car. totally beautiful, but scary too.

BACKSIDE BEAUTY: Twin exhaust and wheels the size of a small shed give a clue, but it's the AMG badge that says it all.

PLAYTIME PLEASER: Dual-zone climate control, heated, mirrors that fold shut when you lock the car, auto wipers and headlights, 6 CD-stereo.

NAUGHTY NIGGLES: Open the windows and all the rain on the roof comes inside the car. It's the same with the boot and it's bloody annoying.

TASTY TOUCHES: Eight-layer, inch-thick, cloth roof completely folds into the boot in 17 seconds, at the flick of a switch.

FAST OR LAST: Different planet. Right up there with the fastest of 'em all.

WONGA WONDER: Storming car that will match motors three times the price. Fantastic value.

WOULD AN ESSEX GIRL LIKE IT? Would she ever! Trouble is, Tracey would be just as happy with a 320. Even that's more than quick enough for most people.

about as most of it is reserved for the folding cloth hood, but rear leg-room, as this genuinely a four-seater grand tourer, is brilliant for kids, and adequate for adults.

Does any of this matter? Of course not.

Fantastic

The CLK AMG, with its massive 6.2-litre V8 engine, incredible noise, unbelievable performance, terrifying (in the wet) handling, huge thirst and big emissions is still the most fantastic car I've driven this year.

I am utterly, totally, head-over-heels, in love with it.

IT'S TYRE-IFIC

ISN'T this wonderful ... a real step back in time.

It's a 1930's truck bearing an advert for Michelin: "The new super tyre, for buses, trucks and vans," and it's part of a fascinating exhibition celebrating Michelin being present in the UK for just over 100 years.

Michelin created detachable steel

wheels in 1913 and radial tyres in 1946 – two inventions that are arguably the most important contributions made to motoring.

The exhibition opened last week at the Heritage Motor Centre in Gaydon, Warwickshire, and will run until December 20.

Take the kids, it's definitely worth a visit.



HERD THE ONE ABOUT BMW?

YOU'VE probably heard of heat-reflecting glass.

It's good stuff. Well now here's a world first ... heat reflective leather.

It's made by fitting a herd of cows with special cow-sized Rayban sun-specs, putting them in extra-hot fields, and waiting for them to work up a good old sweat.

This, of course makes them dazzlingly shiny, thus reflecting the sun.

Oh all right, I have absolutely no idea how BMW have come up with the world's first "Sun Reflective Technology" leather upholstery.

But they have, and considering how hot convertible seats can get, it's a bloody good idea.

In fact, it lowers temperatures by as much as 20C.

Now, if you're wondering why the picture, below, of the new 3-Series Convertible with its roof closed looks pretty much like a normal Coupe, that's because it's made of metal.

Luckily, though, it's been split into sections, otherwise BMW would have a job folding it into the boot, (above) which, by the way, takes just 22 seconds.

The 3 Series Convertible goes on sale next March at £33,030 for a 325i with 0-62mph in 7.6secs and 152mph. There's also a 335i with 0-62mph in 5.8secs and a limited 155mph top speed.

Later on there'll be a 320i, 330i and an amazing 330d (diesel) with 0-62mph in 7.1secs, 152mph and a superb 41mpg.

If you're looking for a lot of performance and kit for not a lot of money, check out the new Renault Clio Dynamique S, which went on sale on Wednesday, at £12,810. A 2.0-litre engine with 135bhp gives this baby monster 0-62mph (100kph) in 8.5secs and a top speed of 127mph. Insurance, however, is only Group 9. Standard features include air-con, keyless-go, fully adjustable steering wheel and part leather trim. Looks like an excellent deal.

DRIVING instructors will have to undergo compulsory criminal history checks from spring 2007, the DSA (Driving Standards Agency) used to safeguard the public and instructors. They will take place when a provisional driving instructor seeks a licence, again at first registration once currently no criminal history checks carried out on instructors. Eddie Barnaville, Chief Executive of the Driving Instructors Association said: "Many parents put their trust in instructors to teach their children how to drive. It beggars belief why these checks are only just about to come into fruition. Teachers in schools and playgroups are required to have such checks."



GIVE US A STEER

Q WHY can't I find a cheap Toyota Yaris? It seems that you need to spend at least £2,000 even for the earliest ones.

A The popular little Yaris is rarely a bargain because demand for an easy-to-drive and reliable small car is high.

If you can find a special edition Colour Collection version of the original this will come with extra items absent from the equipment list of the later T2 revised Yaris; prices for these start at around £3,500.

The Colour Collection Blue has alloys, but look out for the Red version that does without alloys but has a CD/ radio and electric

windows, or the Silver version which has these as well as alloy wheels.

Q I'm buying a diesel VW Golf and have been told to go for the TDI and avoid the SDI. What's the difference?

The key difference is that the TDI has a turbo and the SDI does not.

That means that the SDI is a lot slower and doesn't have the punch needed for effortless overtaking.

The upside for the SDI is that it's a bit more economical – but not by much.

SDIs are much cheaper to buy than TDIs, too.

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Edited by GEORGE FOWLER



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LEO SAYER was top of the charts with "When I Need You" (yuk); Concorde was preparing for its first flight and the country was in the grip of Star Wars fever.

It was ... 1977.

And it was also the year that people were coming to terms with a whole new car concept, the hot hatch, thanks to the arrival of the amazing VW Golf GTI.

With 112bhp crammed under the bonnet of a motor that weighed about the same as a shoebox, it was everyone's dream come true. And at £5,217 it became a reality

for an awful lot of folk. The GTI has undergone so many changes since then that, at times, it bore more resemblance to an ocean liner in distress than a car. Current versions, however, are superb.

VW have brought the GTI back from what looked like a slow and painful death to be, once again, the finest hot hatch on the market.

Sales are booming, but even so they haven't missed the chance to make that little bit more ... so here we have the GTI Edition 30, on sale in January – 30 years on from the

original, and looking every bit as sensational. Power from the GTI's 2.0-litre motor has been upped from 198 to 225bhp, giving it 0-62 mph in 6.6secs, against 6.9secs. Top speed rises from 146 to 150mph.

There's also these flash 18-inch alloys, lots of silver and leather trim, a subtle colour-coded body kit and Edition 30 logos on the kick plates.

Just 1,500 will be made, costing say VW "just over £22,000" whatever that means. Well, it means just over £2,575 more than the standard GTI's £19,425.

THE CLEAN MACHINE!

CAREERS adviser Steve Holloway has made a career out of loving his car.

The 44-year-old from Preston topped a nationwide search to find who must be Britain's saddest man. In fact, Steve is so obsessed with his motor he's got more car care products than his wife, Sue, has make-up.

"I think he loves his car more than me," she said.

Perfect

The award of Britain's Greatest Car Lover was presented to Steve by the makers of BP Ultimate fuel, who launched their "Love Your Car" awards last April.

And after walking off with a trip to a 2007 Formula One Grand Prix of his choice, plus £4,000 worth of holiday vouchers, Steve said: "My car is my pride and joy."

"I don't like other cars, animals, leaves, people or anything coming near it. Things like that might stop it being gleaming,



SHINING EXAMPLE:
Steve with his Toyota

comes to cleaning it, I cannot just wash my car – it has to be rinsed, shampooed, rinsed again, chamois dried, polished, hoovered and leather cleaned.

"I spend more time on my car than I spend on myself. I love it."

BP Ultimate spokeswoman Allyson Hunter said: "We had some pretty amazing entries, but Steve's love for his car really stood out."

